**The situation in the morning**

**Trump's Days of Defiance**

By [Dirk Kurbjuweit](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/impressum/autor-d6a694ab-0001-0003-0000-000000001319) , author in the SPIEGEL capital city office

Dear reader, good morning,

Today we are dealing with hard bandages in the USA, with lawsuits against masks in Germany, with the revolutionary Robert Blum and with the salt shaker.

11/9/2020, 5:36 a.m.

**The Hour of Judges I**

Losers can do a lot of damage too, in a legal way. **Donald Trump** has **chosen** this path . From today on he wants his lawyers to run [increasingly against the election results](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahl-2020-die-usa-zwischen-joe-biden-und-donald-trump-a-118fcb1b-ce70-4d78-9652-a24f433789f4) . That is his right, even if there is so far no evidence that Trump, as he claims, was betrayed.

Donald Trump

Photo: CARLOS BARRIA / REUTERS

The question is whether one should exhaust one's possibilities to the last. The democracy researchers Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have pointed out that democracies are also dependent on **"institutional omission"** : "It is an act of deliberate self-restraint - we do not fully exhaust the power we are legally entitled to."

Trump's struggle may help his ego, although it seems diminutive with every day of defiance, but it hinders the transition, scratches the legitimacy and thus the power of the future president. Trump's actions go against the spirit of the constitution by using it mercilessly for his own ends. This is called "constitutional hardball", a **constitutional struggle with hard bandages** . Levitsky and Ziblatt: "With every failed or failed democracy there is an abundance of constitutional hardball."

It is not over, the fight for US democracy continues. Now it depends on the judges.

* [Resistance to US election results: Trump's man for the rough](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/richard-grenell-donald-trumps-mann-fuers-grobe-a-2bec8d33-7a8b-4ded-844d-e9bb7b00fdb7)

**The hour of judges II**

People with masks in Düsseldorf (April 2020)

Photo: Marcel Kusch / DPA

There is a kind of "constitutional hardball" in Germany these days, but with less drama. An administrative court is expected to decide today whether the **mask requirement is permissible for the Düsseldorf city area** . Citizens are contesting this requirement with urgent proposals.

There were recently some judgments that overturned political decisions in the fight against Corona, [the ban on accommodation in Baden-Württemberg](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/corona-gericht-kippt-beherbergungsverbot-in-baden-wuerttemberg-a-7fd414c8-f59d-458d-9479-f1a4720e0761) or [the curfew for some Berlin innkeepers](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/corona-bestimmungen-gericht-kippt-berliner-sperrstunde-a-0c6b23db-f9c1-42b1-bba1-1c6b7ad85197) . There will be more lawsuits, more judgments. This is what the rule of law is there for; in case of doubt, it also protects the interests of the individual against the majority. I will always defend this principle, but I think it would be appropriate that one or the other could bring themselves to refrain from legal action so that we can see whether the political decisions can help this country out of the crisis. It's not that bad to wear a mask.

Otherwise it just depends on the judges.

* [Simulation of the course of the pandemic: These are the scenarios for the Corona winter](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/corona-in-deutschland-das-sind-die-szenarien-fuer-den-winter-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173898802)

**Death early in the morning**

Robert Blum (undated archive picture)

Photo: DPA

On November 9, 1848, **Robert Blum was** woken at five in the morning. At six o'clock he was standing in front of a firing squad. His last words are said to have been: "I am dying for freedom, may the fatherland be mindful of me." Today this wish should finally come true, at least a little. Federal President **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** will inaugurate the new **Robert-Blum-Saal** in Bellevue Palace ; art on the history of German democracy hangs on the walls.

Blum was one of the early German Democrats, born on November 10, 1807 in Cologne. He learned the trade of a brass caster who made buckles or hinges from brass. Later he worked at the theater in Leipzig, where he led the revolution of 1848 and moved into the Paulskirchen parliament in Frankfurt. He soon went to Vienna because the revolution there seemed more promising to him, was arrested and executed. After that, the Germans forgot him. For a long time they struggled with the subject of democracy.

All the better that the Federal President is honoring him from today with a hall in the castle, especially since November 9th also stands for **two other German revolutions,** that of 1918 and [that of autumn 1989 in the GDR](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/geschichte/9-november-1989-nacht-des-mauerfalls-wir-fluten-jetzt-a-1191238.html) . And of course for the anti-Semitic atrocities that Germans wreaked, the Reichspogromnacht of 1938.

* [Freedom Fighter Blum: The Martyr of 1848](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/mensch/wiener-oktoberrevolution-1848-robert-blum-stirbt-als-freiheitskaempfer-a-972580.html)

**List of losses I: The salt shaker**

Fear of smear infections: The salt shaker has disappeared from many restaurants

Photo: Karl-Josef Hildenbrand / dpa

There is a book by the writer **Judith Schalansky** with the title **"Directory of some losses"** . I borrow these beautiful words and during this week I will **write** daily **about things or phenomena that have been lost to us in the pandemic.**

In the past, the salt shaker was on every table in many restaurants. It wasn't the expensive restaurants, especially not the ones with the stars. If you were to ask for a salt shaker from Tim Raue in Berlin or at the Klaus Erfort guest house in Saarbrücken, the cook would probably get lost (and maybe the guest too).

Salt shakers were more likely to be found at Pizza Italians, Greeks or in the Deutsches Eck. They were useful to cover up the weaknesses of the kitchen or to give the coarse palate a taste sensation. On the other hand, salt is not exactly beneficial to health, which is why the country's top health guru, the politician Karl Lauterbach, never consumes salt. When I was with him at the Facil restaurant (2 stars), he asked for salt-free dishes, but when he was unwell he discovered during the first course that the cook had cheated on him with a pinch of salt, which almost led to the cook himself deluding himself.

Now the salt shakers have disappeared from many restaurants for fear of smear infections. [The presumably first German corona outbreak](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/erster-corona-fall-in-deutschland-die-unglueckliche-reise-von-patientin-0-a-2096d364-dcd8-4ec8-98ca-7a8ca1d63524) at Webasto probably had to do with a salt shaker. If this loss leads all cooks to try harder and we live healthier lives, then the loss of the salt shaker is not really a loss.

**The latest news from the night**

* **Joe Biden's first big battle:** 130,000 cases a day - Corona has the USA firmly under control. How will Joe Biden tackle the crisis if he takes over the White House? [He is already presenting his task force](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/joe-bidens-erste-grosse-schlacht-gewaehlter-us-praesident-gegen-coronavirus-a-83f72d92-0c42-4ee4-aeb8-46fcdca6da04)
* **"Up to 40 percent of the population are at risk":** The number of infections is skyrocketing in Germany. [For Health Minister Jens Spahn, this is also related to the age structure - and the affluent life](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/jens-spahn-sieht-bis-40-prozent-der-bevoelkerung-als-risikogruppe-fuer-corona-a-e60b80f4-19a2-47d3-b7de-1d37cac2dab8)
* **According to the report, Orbán threatens to veto the EU budget:** Anyone who dismantles the rule of law should soon receive less EU money - Hungary, among others, does not like that at all. [According to a media report, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is now clear](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/viktor-orban-droht-laut-bericht-mit-ungarns-veto-gegen-eu-haushalt-a-5dd6744d-cb08-4591-a052-80c8b3aec218)